

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1-3 were previously cancelled by preliminary amendments.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 4 as containing a typographical error (i.e., the degree symbol is missing on line 13 of Claim 4). By the foregoing amendments, Claim 4 has been amended to correct the aforesaid typographical error, which is believed to address the Examiner's objection.

No further amendments to Claims 5 and 6 have been made.

Amended independent Claim 4 and independent Claims 5-6 remain pending and under examination in the present application.

Double Patenting Rejections

On pages 2-7 of the Office Action, each of Claims 4-6 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over one or more claims of one or more of the following U.S. Patents, which are co-owned by the assignee of the present application: U.S. 6,407,031, U.S. 6,407,280, U.S. 6,403,525, U.S. 6,472,552, U.S. 6,710,207. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over all of the foregoing U.S. Patents, which is believed to overcome these double-patenting rejections with respect to pending Claims 4-6.

Additionally, on pages 7-8 of the Office Action, Claim 6 has been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 10 of co-pending U.S. Appln. No. 10/722,281. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Appln. No. 10/722,281, which is believed to overcome this provisional double-patenting rejection with respect to pending Claim 6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that Claims 4-6 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of Claims 4-6 is hereby respectfully requested.

A fee of \$110 is believed to be due in connection with the submission of the

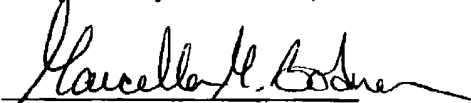
Amendment portion of this paper, since it is being submitted within one month after the originally set due date for response to the Office Action. This \$120 fee is addressed by the accompanying Petition for Extension, which authorizes this \$120 to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1850**. Two fees of \$130 each are also believed to be due in connection with submission of the two accompanying Terminal Disclaimers and these fees are addressed by the respective Terminal Disclaimers.

No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this Amendment. If, however, any such additional fees, including petition and extension fees, are due in connection with the submission of this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to **Deposit Account No. 18-1850**. In the meantime, please direct all future correspondence relating to the present application to the undersigned attorney.

If there remain any outstanding issues which the Examiner believes could be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss same at the telephone number provided below.

Date: **December 8, 2004**
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Respectfully submitted,



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